

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02007 041147Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----041152Z 020666 /14
O 041053Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9366

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF CLIFFORD MISSION IN ANKARA AND
NICOSIA PASSED TO GOG

REF: STATE 46565

1. REFTEL WAS RECEIVED JUST BEFORE AMBASSADOR LEFT FOR WASHINGTON
AND WE DISCUSSED BEST WAY OF CONVEYING MESSAGE TO GOG, BUILDING
ON AMBASSADOR'S EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH CAMANLIS (ATHENS 1896).
WE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ME TO SEE BITSIOS AND ASK HIM
TO PASS CLIFFORD'S MESSAGE TO CARAMANLIS, AND I REQUESTED APPOINT-
MENT.
THIS MORNING FONMIN'S OFFICE TELEPHONED TO SAY I SHOULD SEE
SECGEN THEODOROPOULOS, AND MEETING WAS ARRANGED FOR 10 A.M.

2. THEODOROPOULOS TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES DURING PRESENTATION
AND INTERRUPTED ONCE OR TWICE TO SAY THAT AFTER WAS DONE HE WOULD
LIKE TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS. HIS FIRST OBSERVATION CONCERNED PARA-
GRAPH FIVE WHERE HE DISAGREED WITH CLIFFORD'S VIEW THAT US DOES NOT
NOW HAVE ALL THE FACTS ON AEGEAN DISPUTE. THEODOROPOULOS CLAIMED
ALL THE FACTS ARE WELL-KNOWN, ALTHOUGH PRACTICE OF STATES
IN APPLYING SUCH FACTS IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS HAS NOT YET BEEN
FULLY EXPLORED. THAT IS WHAT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WAS SUPPOSED
TO DO DURING LATEST PHASE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS BUT, HE
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SAID, TURKS HAVE RENEGED ON AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE THIS STUDY.
THEODOROPOULOS SAID HE ASSUMED REFERENCE TO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
THIRD-PARTY RESOLUTION MEANT SOMETHING LIKE INTERNATIONAL COURT
OR A MEDIATOR APPROVED BY BOTH TURKS AND GREEKS. HE TOOK NOTE
OF FACT THAT GREEK REQUEST FOR FURTHER LETTER LIKE KISSGINGER'S
TO BITSIOS WAS BEING STUDIED BY WASHINGTON, AS WAS AVEROFF'S
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLY ASSISTANCE.

3. REGARDING TURKISH DENIAL THAT LARGE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE HAD BEEN CREATED ALONG AEGEAN, THEODOROPOULOS COMMENTED THAT US MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES CERTAINLY KNOW EXACT NATURE OF THAT TURKISH ARMY AND NUMBER OF LANDING CRAFT AVAILABLE TO IT. EVEN IF ALL THESE SHIPS WERE NOT NOW ASSEMBLED IN IZMIR, HE NOTED, TURKS COULD BRING THEM ALL FROM OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, WHICH IS DANGEROUSLY SHORT NOTICE FOR GREEKS TO RESPOND.

4. AS FOR PROSPECTS FOR CYPRIOT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA, THEODOROPOULOS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CLIFFORD'S VIEW THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE PREPARED FOR SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED DISCUSSION OF TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WHAT GREEKS ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER, WAS THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS WOULD WANT TO TALK ONLY ABOUT CONSTITUTION AND GREEK CYPRIOTS ONLY ABOUT TERRITORY. THEODOROPOULOS BELIEVES AGENDA AGREED UPON BEFOREHAND COVERING BOTH POINTS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR REAL PROGRESS.

5. THEODOROPOULOS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CLIFFORD'S MESSAGE. HE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT IT IMMEDIATELY TO BITSIOS WHO HE WAS SURE WOULD PASS IT ON TO PRIME MINISTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS02007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0175
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadexz.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00f237be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 46565
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212728
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF CLIFFORD MISSION IN ANKARA AND NICOSIA PASSED TO GOG
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00f237be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009